



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: August 31, 2008
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Harvest Resumed After Wet, Cool Conditions Pass and Growers Were Concerned About the Lack of Moisture Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.8. Grain harvest activities resumed after wet weather had brought it to a halt. Cool night temperatures and heavy morning dew made for shorter harvest days. Winter wheat harvest was nearly done, but large amounts of spring wheat and barley remained to be cut. Eastern Washington farmers were very concerned about the lack of moisture for fall planting. In counties with sufficient irrigation water, the fourth cutting of alfalfa was being laid down. Skagit County reported 2009 flowers and cabbage were being planted.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley and Ferry County, Bartlett pear harvest continued as producers reported challenges getting the crop to size up. Hop and Gala apple harvest started. Late season peaches and nectarines were being harvested as well. Vegetable harvest was slowed considerably given the cool nighttime temperatures combined with morning dew and precipitation. Franklin County reported early apples continued to be harvested. Nectarine harvest was nearly done, while peach harvest was in full swing. Sweet corn harvest continued and appeared to be nearing the end. Clallam and Jefferson County reported some seed potatoes have been harvested, but the late spring had pushed back a lot of fruit and vegetable harvest activities.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 49 percent poor, 23 percent fair and 24 percent good. Walla Walla County reported recent rains extended mountain pasture. High feed costs continued to put pressure on producers to cull heavily.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.8
Last Week	5.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	36	51	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	27	34	39	2
Subsoil	12	53	35	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	34	46	0
Irrigation Water	0	6	93	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	6	7	87	0
Hay & Roughage	16	21	60	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	67	56	94	93
Winter Wheat Planted	2	NA	12	9
Winter Wheat Harvested	87	86	98	96
Barley Harvested	62	51	92	92
Potatoes Harvested	37	*29	45	47
Field Corn Doughed	58	41	48	67
Field Corn Dented	14	12	37	47
Field Corn Mature	7	6	11	19
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	13	*8	18	16
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	35	15	28	31
Dry Peas Harvested	91	90	98	98
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	98	97	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	66	53	73	83
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	7	NA	1	NA

* Revised.

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	3	21	75	1
Corn	0	3	37	59	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	51	39	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was mostly cloudy with high temperatures in the 60s and lows in the 40s.

Grays Harbor: Unseasonably cool temperatures and rain showers were welcomed by cannery pea growers who had been worried about the lack of soil moisture and its impact on pea quality. On the other hand, sweet corn growers complained about the lack of heat units for their crop. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific yields as harvest reached its peak for the season. U-Pick blueberry farmers reported excellent fruit size. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. U-Pick pumpkin farmers complained about the unseasonably cool temperatures which continued to delay crop development.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: All three counties continued to enjoy a nice summer. The recent rain helped keep crops and pastures from drying up so quickly, but more sunshine is needed to ripen garden crops.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for the area. The corn crop was still two weeks behind schedule. There were no unusual conditions to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week averaged 65 degrees, and there was 0.4 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU NW Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. With last week's rain, summer transitioned into fall. Pea harvest was finishing up. Wheat harvest was progressing. The crop was looking very good early in the season, but rains during harvest will have a negative impact on the crop. Blueberry harvest was getting closer to the

end and blackberries were coming on strong. Potato vines were being mowed down, and harvest should begin soon. This year's crop was about a month behind. Next year's flower crop and cabbage seed crop were being planted.

Snohomish/North King: Scattered showers and occasional heavy rain were received during the week. Sunday brought a deluge of rain and hail to some areas. There was some hail damage to tender leaves. All crops were late being harvested this year. Very few potatoes or grain have been harvested. Some seed crops were harvested. Hay fields have been harvested, but the lack of moisture combined with early high temperatures limited growth. Supplies were low and quality will be down.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was wet during the week with high temperatures in the 60s and lows in the 50s. Pumpkins began blooming late, and grass seed cutting was just beginning.

Thurston: The unseasonably cool temperatures and rain showers had many ag producers convinced that summer had ended and fall had arrived. Christmas tree growers and turfgrass growers welcomed the cooler weather and rain. Additional soil moisture helped enhance Christmas tree color and also boosted turfgrass vigor. Livestock producers continued monitoring pastures and hayfields for tansy ragwort. Dairy producers were applying liquid manure to forage fields. Organic vegetable growers reported the recent rains increased soil moisture which resulted in some weed infestation.

Central

Benton: Some spotty moisture was received during the week. The precipitation was enough to crust over early seeded winter wheat fields but not enough to substantially increase topsoil moisture.

Douglas/Chelan: Winter wheat harvest was winding down, with yields below normal. Gala apple harvest began. Pear harvest continued. Dry windy conditions continued throughout both counties. Range and pastures were dry.

Franklin: The week was cooler than normal, though pleasant and good for fieldwork. The third cutting of hay progressed. Early apples continued to be picked. Nectarine harvest was near the end, while peach harvest was in full swing. The limited dry bean acreage continued to be cut and combined. The smaller acreage plots of fresh market melons, cabbage, and lettuce were being harvested. Sweet corn harvest continued and appeared to be near the end. Dry land winter wheat seeding began even though parts of the county were abnormally dry. Heavier rain the prior week made for nice seeding conditions for the northeastern area of the county.

Klickitat: August finished up with a week of moderate temperatures and daytime highs in the 60s and 70s, except for a brief blast of summer on Friday with temperatures in the 80s. Overnight lows were in the 40s and 50s. There was significant rainfall on Monday in Goldendale and Centerville. Periodic rain showers continued with enough frequency to make it difficult to finish grain harvest. Irrigated grain crops were still green, with two to three weeks left until

harvest. By Saturday, drying winds dropped enough moisture for trucks to haul grain to storage as stands fell to the combines. The last of the second cutting of orchard grass hay was ready to bale. Irrigation continued for the third cutting of hay. Overall, hay supplies were adequate, but shortages may occur this winter. In home gardens, cucumbers and summer squash were in full production. Peppers and pumpkins began to color, and corn was late to mature.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Temperatures cooled off, which slowed harvest throughout the county. The third cutting of hay was doing fine.

Yakima: Daytime temperatures cooled over the week from the mid-80s to the mid-70s. Nighttime lows approached the lower 40s as the week ended. Widespread precipitation in the county on August 25 amounted to between 0.1 and 0.3 inch. Bartlett pear harvest continued as producers reported challenges getting the crop to size up. There was some frost damage that impacted fruit quality. Hop harvest began. Gala apple and late season peaches and nectarines were being harvested. Vegetable harvest slowed considerably with the cool nighttime temperatures combined with morning dew and precipitation.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from ten degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: The weather cleared and farmers were able to get back into fields. Good progress was made towards completion of harvest.

Ferry: Winter wheat harvest was in progress. Bartlett pear harvest began.

Lincoln: Harvest continued in the northeast part of the county with some producers just getting started. Rain will eventually be needed as some farmers have not seeded all of their acres.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Conditions were dry and dusty for seeding winter wheat. There was some moisture on the ground, but no moisture on the hills.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Combines got back in fields on Friday afternoon and were working every hour possible to complete the wheat and barley harvest. Sprout damage was a concern for wheat farmers. Fieldwork began in preparation for 2009 seeding. A fair amount of bluegrass fields were being torn out

due to the high price of fertilizer and low grass prices.

Stevens: Grain harvest was slowed due to the damp weather, but combines were rolling by the weekend. Haying was complete for the year except for a few irrigated fields which producers were working on.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures were welcomed. Some rain was received but not enough to help with fall seeding. Some hay was rained on. Heavy rains in the mountains helped range pastures, but valley pastures needed more precipitation for fall grazing.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Those still harvesting wheat faced delays due to cool night temperatures.

Whitman: Rain and cooler temperatures continued to slow harvest. Harvest activity picked up later in the week after fields dried out. Crop quality may become an issue as the impact from 1.5 inches of rain is determined.



Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of August 25 - 31, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	44	65	57	-5	53	-26	2	-16	0.99	+0.64	4	29.88	-6.34	82	180
Everett	49	75	60	-3	69	-13	11	-12	0.65	+0.25	6	34.81	-1.77	95	199
Hoquiam	47	65	58	-4	57	-23	2	-19	0.69	+0.23	3	58.75	-9.22	86	206
Kelso	41	77	61	-4	75	-19	17	-16	0.21	-0.21	3	32.08	-14.52	69	143
Olympia	45	72	60	-3	72	-10	9	-13	0.30	-0.08	3	44.56	-6.09	88	178
Seattle-Tacoma	51	72	61	-4	79	-21	12	-22	0.70	+0.36	3	36.35	-0.89	98	171
Shelton	41	69	59	-6	61	-36	6	-28	0.90	+0.51	4	59.61	-5.32	92	175
Tacoma WA AP	44	75	61	-3	76	-18	16	-12	0.46	+0.11	3	33.25	-7.06	82	159
Vancouver WA	46	84	64	+1	102	+6	38	+7	0.35	-0.01	2	36.88	-4.48	89	163
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	84	63	-3	92	-13	25	-18	0.16	+0.03	1	6.94	-2.01	78	69
Omak AP	40	90	65	+2	105	+5	38	-2	0.14	-0.08	1	7.99	-7.09	53	68
Stampede Pass	37	62	47	-7	9	-31	0	-7	2.22	+1.63	6	74.59	-6.52	92	204
Wenatchee	51	88	66	-5	111	-29	41	-31	0.00	-0.14	0	4.33	-4.00	52	45
Yakima AP	41	89	63	-4	94	-22	28	-24	0.16	+0.02	1	6.15	-1.83	77	64
NORTHEAST															
Colville	44	87	65	+2	104	+11	35	-2	0.23	-0.05	2	17.55	-3.70	83	128
Deer Park	35	84	59	-8	61	-46	7	-39	0.58	+0.37	3	21.21	+2.65	114	140
Republic	42	84	63	+4	96	+20	31	+5	0.24	-0.04	3	12.03	-3.89	76	107
Spokane AP	42	85	61	-5	81	-29	19	-28	0.27	+0.06	2	16.70	+0.18	101	126
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	51	88	65	-6	109	-39	39	-39	0.11	+0.04	2	4.41	-2.82	61	71
Moses Lake	48	89	66	-6	112	-36	42	-36	0.03	-0.04	2	4.37	-2.86	60	70
Quincy	46	86	65	-3	108	-17	39	-20	0.19	+0.06	2	7.11	-0.72	91	73
Ritzville	40	86	61	-6	78	-35	22	-27	0.03	-0.10	1	9.39	-1.94	83	90
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	95	69	-6	131	-41	61	-40	0.11	+0.01	1	3.94	-2.57	61	47
Pasco	40	95	67	-4	122	-24	55	-22	0.00	-0.10	0	7.11	-0.40	95	72
Pullman	45	85	61	-3	79	-16	17	-23	0.33	+0.12	2	18.35	-2.77	87	123
Walla Walla Rgn	49	92	68	-4	125	-25	56	-26	0.04	-0.17	1	13.84	-5.68	71	112
Whitman Mission	42	93	66	-3	111	-10	41	-14	0.04	-0.12	1	12.21	-1.57	89	116
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	51	92	70	+0	143	-2	73	-5	0.27	+0.06	2	8.36	-4.10	67	100

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precipitation Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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